

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A suspension assembly mounted to a vehicle having a leaf spring suspension system including a wheel journalled to an axle, a leaf spring secured to said axle, said leaf spring having opposite ends ~~secured to said axle~~, said leaf spring secured at one of said ends to ~~the~~ an undercarriage of said vehicle, said suspension assembly comprising a single resilient bolster spring having opposite ends interposed between said leaf spring and said undercarriage, one of said ends of said bolster spring secured to said leaf spring over said axle, the other of said ends of said bolster spring extending over and along said leaf spring and being secured to said undercarriage.
2. (Original) The suspension assembly of claim 1 and further comprising a first bracket on said one end of said bolster spring secured to said leaf spring, and a second bracket on said other end of said bolster spring secured to said undercarriage.
3. (Original) The suspension assembly of claim 2 wherein said second bracket is offset vertically and laterally from said first bracket.
4. (Original) The suspension assembly of claim 1 wherein said other end of said bolster spring is spaced higher than said one end of said bolster spring and extends toward said one end of said leaf spring.
5. (Currently Amended) The suspension assembly of claim 1 [[,]] wherein said bolster spring further comprises a plurality of stacked resilient cores, each core laterally offset from ~~its~~ said core's adjacent core, a rigid separator plate between each said core, said cores and separator plates maintained between a first endplate forming said one end of said bolster spring and a second endplate forming said other end of said bolster spring.

6. (Original) The suspension assembly of claim 5 wherein said cores and separator plates are generally vertically disposed, said other end of said bolster spring spaced forwardly and upwardly apart from said one end of the bolster spring.

7. (Original) The suspension system of claim 5 wherein said cores and separator plates are angularly offset from a vertical orientation between about five degrees and twenty five degrees.

8. Cancelled

9. (Currently Amended) A method of securing a single bolster spring assembly to ~~the~~ a suspension system of a vehicle, said suspension system including a wheel journalled to an axle, said axle secured to ~~the~~ an undercarriage of said vehicle with a resilient suspension means including a leaf spring, said bolster spring including a plurality of stacked planar resilient cores, each core laterally offset from ~~its~~ said adjacent core; a rigid planar separator between each adjacent pair of said cores; said cores and separators maintained between a first endplate and a second endplate; a bracket carried by said first endplate adapted for connection to said leaf spring over said axle, a second bracket carried by said second endplate adapted for connection to said undercarriage, said method comprising the steps: a. securing said second bracket to said undercarriage such that said bolster spring assembly is angularly positioned between said axle and said undercarriage; and b. securing said first bracket to said leaf spring over said axle.

10. (New) A suspension system configured to be added to a vehicle including a vehicle frame, a leaf spring connected to the vehicle frame at a first end and a second end, and an axle connected to the leaf spring intermediate the first end and the second end by way of at least one u-bolt, the suspension system comprising:

a single bolster spring assembly comprising a bolster spring positioned intermediate a first bracket and a second bracket, said first bracket being connected to the leaf spring and said second bracket being connected to the vehicle frame.

11. (New) The suspension system as set forth in claim 10, wherein the second bracket is connected to the vehicle frame forward of the axle.

12. (New) The suspension system as set forth in claim 10, wherein the u-bolt connects said first bracket to the leaf spring.

13. (New) The suspension system as set forth in claim 12, wherein said first bracket includes a pair of mounting holes configured to receive the u-bolt.

14. (New) The suspension system as set forth in claim 10, wherein said second bracket is located forward of said first bracket.

15. (New) The suspension system as set forth in claim 10, further including a leaf spring support block intermediate the axle and the leaf spring.

16. (New) The suspension system as set forth in claim 10, wherein the first bracket includes a horizontal plate adjacent the leaf spring and a vertical plate connected to said bolster spring.

17. (New) The suspension system as set forth in claim 16, wherein the first bracket further includes a pair of plates in a vertical plane having an upper surface extending from a rear edge of said horizontal plate to a top edge of said vertical plate.

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18. (New) The suspension system as set forth in claim 17, wherein said horizontal plate includes a pair of mounting holes positioned on a single side of said pair of plates.